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Campaign Announcement

Max S. Baucus

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Indexing Form

Senator * or Department*: **BAUCUS**

Instructions:

Prepare one form for insertion at the beginning of each record series.

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Record Type*: **Speeches & Remarks**

MONTH/YEAR of Records*: **October-1995**

(Example: JANUARY-2003)

(1) Subject*: **Federal Issues**

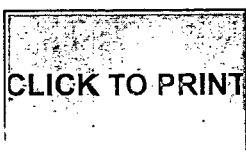
(select subject from controlled vocabulary, if your office has one)

(2) Subject* **1996 Campaign Announcement**

DOCUMENT DATE*: **10/04/1995**

(Example: 01/12/1966)

* "required information"



United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2602

1996 Campaign Announcement

Senator Max Baucus
Billings, Montana

October 4, 1995

Thank you, Dick. And thank you all, friends.

Today I announce my candidacy for the U.S. Senate.

And let me tell you why, by telling you about the waitress I met on a walk down the Bitterroot Valley to Hamilton last winter. She was in her 60s, working in a little coffee shop in Florence. Her husband had died a few years earlier. She was working to replace his pension, and support a sick daughter. She asked if I could help her out a bit. I said of course I would, but then she said she didn't want special treatment, because a lot of people are worse off and needed help more.

This campaign will be for people like her. Montana's decent, hard-working middle class. People who work hard. Play by the rules. Accept their responsibilities. Sacrifice so the next generation can have a better life. And understand that our Montana way of life is very special.

This year I have walked the roads all across our beautiful state. Down the Lewis and Clark route from Helena to Three Forks. Across the Bozeman Trail from Livingston to Bozeman. From Missoula up to the crest of Lolo Pass at the Idaho border, and from Fairview on the Dakota border past Sidney and on to Glendive. I have met people with the same bedrock values as my friend in Florence in towns, farms and communities in every part of our state.

Families working to make ends meet and bring their kids up right.

Doctors and nurses at our hospitals, clinics and Indian Health Service stations.

Police officers and county attorneys who keep our children safe in the face of a wave of extremism and hate rhetoric.

Forest Service firefighters from Thompson Falls and Region One who put their lives on the line.

Ranchers and farmers whose hard work feeds the world.

Folks in small business whose energy and faith creates jobs and keeps our economy strong.

I also my workdays. Spending time on the job, side by side with working Montanans. Serving lunch to the kids at Hellgate Elementary School in Missoula. Moving dirt at the Blackfoot Challenge on the Foote Ranch near Ovando. Pulling on the greenchain in the Flathead. Pumping gas at Dick's Conoco here in Billings. I know the challenges, the troubles and the strength of people who work for a living every day.

I can tell you that we have the best, hardest-working people, in the most beautiful state, in the greatest country in the world.

And our old-fashioned values are alive and well.

We believe in hard work and strong families.

In responsibility to our elderly and care for our children.

In a strong farm economy, opportunity for small business and security for working people.

In a welfare system that saves taxpayers money and expects the same initiative and responsibility from beneficiaries that our working families show every day.

In preserving the high quality of life that comes with our clean air, blue ribbon streams and unspoiled lands.

In making sure the state we love is always "the last, best place."

The Lincoln Education Center stands for those values. Commitment to our children. Reverence for our parents and our pioneer heritage. Belief in our future. Willingness to sacrifice, so we can give the next generation of Montanans a better life.

But I can also tell you those values are under siege.

A fellow I met last fall while I was driving a forklift at the water bottling plant in Lewistown put it best. He said that the government doesn't seem to make much sense. It cares a lot about big companies, foreign aid, welfare and lobbyists -- not much about the folks who work for a living. Who own small businesses. Who pay the taxes. Who pay more for health insurance every year. Whose incomes are stuck.

And he is right. Our middle class here is under assault ...

... from the Gingrich crowd who want to cut \$270 billion out of Medicare, closing rural hospitals, threatening jobs, and making senior citizens pay more for the health care they have earned. And to do it so the very wealthy can get a tax cut.

I say that is an outrage. I say it is wrong. I say it is wrong to threaten our seniors, our

hospitals and our high-quality health care so wealthy individuals to get new tax loopholes. And I will fight them this year, next year and for the rest of my life.

... assault from the same bunch who say they will fight an increase in the minimum wage to the death, when stagnant wages make the dream of prosperity, home ownership and security further away than ever for working families in our state.

I say they are wrong, and Montanans know they are wrong.

... assault from big city garbage salesmen who want to turn the Treasure State into a giant landfill. Who are already prospecting around like old-time gold miners looking for garbage dumps.

I say Montana must have the right to say "no." And I am fighting for a law that gives us the right to say "no."

From unfair taxes like the gas tax and the estate tax that hurt farmers, small business owners and working people.

I say we should cut these anti-Montana taxes and I am fighting to do it.

... assault from a federal bureaucracy that will not live within its means and piles up debt that our kids will have to pay.

I say it is time for the government to balance its budget, stop pushing Montanans around and show some common sense.

... assault from extremists in Congress who are doing everything in their power to degrade our rivers and streams. That wants to repeal the Clean Air Act just as the people of Billings and Missoula are about to get fresh air.

I say that we live in the most beautiful place in the world -- that the world's best hunting and fishing are part of our birthright -- and I will protect our quality of life.

... assault from an extremist ideology that says the best support for agriculture is no support for agriculture.

I say that if we don't have strong agriculture -- if we lose our family farms -- we have lost our way of life. In our towns, in our rural counties, in every part of our state.

... assault from people who don't understand that we need the world's best education to maintain a high standard of living. Who want to gut federal support for vocational education. Cut support for schools in Indian Country by a third -- below even what we need for accreditation and basic safety standards. And threaten college for thousands of Montana kids by

making them pay a \$2 million tax for student loans.

And I say that is so wrong, so short-sighted, so outrageous and so stupid that we cannot stand for it.

That's the fight we're in. That's the fight we've got to win.

And that's why today, I ask for the privilege of representing Montana.

... to defend Medicare and Social Security for our parents and grandparents.

... to protect our natural heritage, our fresh air, pure water and our national parks.

... to balance the budget. Reform welfare. Fight waste. And make sure the taxpayer's dollar is not wasted, but goes to services like highways, schools, and Medicare that make a difference in the life of ordinary people.

... to make sure our children have the chance to get a student loan, a top-quality education and the chance to make a good, prosperous life in Montana.

To fight for our people.

To stand up for what we know is right.

And I may not be the world's greatest orator. I am not going to promise you the world's most eloquent speeches.

But I grew up on a ranch. I know about getting up for work at four and five in the morning. I guarantee that no one will work harder for Montana than this fourth generation Montanan.

No one will give more of himself.

No one will take more time to look at the issues on the merits -- listen to Montanans -- look beyond partisan lines -- make the independent, common-sense decisions Montanans want - and do what is right for Montana, for our families, for our country.

That is my pledge. And today I ask for your help -- for your support -- and I look forward to this fight for Montana's future.

We are in it together. And we are in it to win.

Thank you all.